

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 0089

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, BF, BB
SUBJ: FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 007701

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED JANUARY 12 FOLLOWING LETTER DATED
SAME DAY FROM MINEXTAFF ADDERLEY:

QTE I REFER TO YOUR LETTER OF DECEMBER 29, 1977 CONCERNING
THE RESUMPTION OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE FUTURE OF U.S.
FACILITIES IN THE BAHAMAS AND TO YOUR ENQUIRY AS TO THE
CONVENIENCE TO MY MINISTRY OF JANUARY 16 AS THE DATE FOR
THE RESUMPTION OF SUCH DISCUSSIONS.

"I AM OF THE VIEW THAT DATES FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THE DIS-
CUSSIONS OUGHT NOT TO BE AGREED UNTIL BOTH SIDES HAVE REACHED
AGREEMENT ON THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE DISCUSSIONS AND
THE SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED. IT WOULD APPEAR TO ME THAT AS
A FIRST STEP, UPON RESUMPTION, THE INITIAL ROUND OF TALKS
SHOULD BE OF A TECHNICAL OR PROCEDURAL NATURE LIMITED TO
DISCUSSIONS AIMED AT ATTEMPTING TO IDENTIFY AREAS IN RESPECT
OF WHICH THERE MAY BE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US WITH REGARD TO
THE TERMS OF THE DRAFT DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED WHICH NOW OUGHT
TO BE AGREED BUT HAVE NOT REALLY BEEN CONSIDERED FOR OVER TWO
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YEARS. CONSIDERATION FOR USE OF THE FACILITIES AND OTHER
MATTERS OF MORE SUBSTANTIVE NATURE COULD BE THE SUBJECT OF
A FURTHER ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS.

"I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR EXCELLENCY'S REACTION TO THESE
SUGGESTIONS AND WOULD WELCOME ANY PROPOSAL YOUR EXCELLENCY
MAY WISH TO MAKE WITH REGARD TO HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED ON

WHAT I REGARD AS TECHNICAL MATTERS AND THE FORMULATION OF AN AGREED AGENDA UPON WHICH THE DISCUSSIONS COULD COMMENCE.

"I WOULD SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO ATTEMPT TO RESUME FORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON MONDAY THE 16 JANUARY. COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE UNQTE.

2. WHILE THE EXACT LANGUAGE OF ADDERLEY'S LETTER GIVES US SOME PROBLEMS - DOES HE PROPOSE THAT MINISTRY AND EMBASSY IDENTIFY PROBLEM AREAS PRIOR TO TEAM VISIT? - WE FEEL THAT THIS COULD BE LARGELY SEMANTIC. IN ORDER TO ATTEMPT TO FINESSE THIS ISSUE WE WOULD PROPOSE TO SEND THE FOLLOWING DRAFT LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR:

QTE THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF JANUARY 12 CONCERNING THE RESUMPTION OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE FUTURE OF U.S. FACILITIES IN THE BAHAMAS AND SETTING FORTH YOUR VIEWS ON THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE DISCUSSIONS AND THE SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED. I SHARE YOUR VIEW THAT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE INITIAL ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE ESSENTIALLY EXPLORATORY AND LIMITED TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF AREAS IN WHICH THERE MAY EXIST DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US WITH REGARD TO PREVIOUS WRITTEN EXCHANGES ON THIS SUBJECT. HAVING DETERMINED THESE AREAS AT THE FIRST SESSION, SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS COULD BE HELD TO ACHIEVE A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION OF THESE DIFFERENCES. SUCH ITEMS AS CONSIDERATION FOR USE OF THE FACILITIES COULD THEN
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BE THE SUBJECT OF FURTHER DISCUSSION.

"AS I VIEW THE MATTER, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE BEGIN THIS PROCESS IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD INDICATE WHEN YOUR MINISTRY WOULD BE ABLE TO COMMENCE THE FIRST AND PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION. UNQTE

3. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S COMMENTS ON PROPOSED DRAFT. SCHWARTZ

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